

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-33 are pending in the present application. After entry of the above amendments, claims 1-33 will be still pending in this application. Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance, which prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)**

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-33 as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,717,830 issued to Sigler et al. (Sigler). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that Sigler does not disclose determining participants in a net, as claimed. Specifically, Sigler does not disclose “sending a message . . . for determining whether the communication device is a participant in the net” and/or “listing the communication device as a participant in the net if the controller sends a response to the message within a predetermined time period.” On the contrary, Sigler only determines whether a speaker is inactive for a predetermined threshold period of time, and if so, the speaker is removed. (Col. 17, lines 54-59). There is no mention of such limitations in the citation made by the Examiner, and the Examiner has not shown where in Sigler such claimed limitations may be allegedly found.

Therefore, since Sigler does not disclose at least the above limitations, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw this rejection.

**CONCLUSION**

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 24, 2004

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